

Weekly Column for February 21, 2008

I believe that today's subject will be a first- Happy Birthday Wishes!

Next Friday will be the 1-year Birthday Celebration for Troy Night Out (note that organizers are cleverly not referring to this as an anniversary), and there is quite the special evening planned in addition to the normal night's activities that have made this event such a smashing success.

The signature piece of February's Troy Night Out will be a Birthday Party in the Frear Building that will feature art, music, champagne and cupcakes. For those that don't know, the Frear Building is located on 3rd Street, just north of the Atrium.

The party will take place from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and as it is a fund-raiser for Troy Night Out, organizers are asking for a \$10 donation to help fund the remaining ten events that will take place in 2008.

As part of the Birthday Party, a silent art auction will take place, featuring a number of local and well-known artists. The Birthday Party promises to be a great experience, and I ask you once more to come down and see what downtown Troy is all about. Even in this frigid weather.

I have often in the past year talked about the great services that organizers of events like Troy Night Out provide to the City of Troy. This was a major topic of the recent State of the City Address, and I think it bears worth repeating.

It is the people in the City of Troy, the level of energy that they convey for so many different ideas that make Troy such a unique place to live, work and play. I could not be more excited with the level of success Troy Night Out has experienced in one short year, but beyond that, I am even more pleased with the level of excitement that visitors have for the notion of Troy Night Out. People are looking for events, places, and people that bring that back in time. Teaming that with the artistic, genuine and welcoming environment that is downtown Troy has been quite the breakthrough.

Please come out next Friday, February 29th, and celebrate a birthday with us, and a leap year while you're at it.

I hope that next week I will be able to talk about the proposed contract with the Police Benevolent Association in this column, as I must wait until the union members approve it before commenting in detail. Needless to say we are pleased that this issue has been resolved.

Have a wonderful weekend, and stay warm, spring is on the way!

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy